

April 2013



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Highlight of the Month—Jazz Appreciation Month

Each April, the United States celebrates Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM), an opportunity to savor a major American contribution to world culture.

Initiated by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, JAM aims to focus public attention on the music, and on the many talented composers, musicians and other contributors to the sound.

performance and stories, programs and productions this April.

- [The Real Ambassadors: America Exports Jazz](#)
- ["Ambassador" Armstrong Challenged U.S. Government Policies](#)
- [Jazz Pianist Brubeck Expanded Musical and Social Frontiers](#)
- ["This Is Willis Conover"](#)

- [All-Female Jazz Band Breaks Stereotypes](#)
- [Interview with Voice of America's Jazz Host Russ Davis](#)
- [Cool Jazz and the](#)



International Jazz Day 2013: Live All Stars Jazz Concert in Istanbul

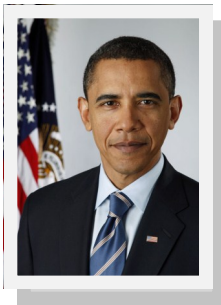
April 30, 2013, 2100 hrs (local time — to be confirmed)

Join us for an International Jazz Day concert, live from Istanbul, Turkey!

Watch the gala concert online at: <https://conx.state.gov/digital-diplomacy>

This program will be an interactive video webcast in English. Please click on the URL above to participate.

The Spirit and Rhythms of Jazz is the 2013 Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM) theme highlighting jazz cultural history, musical per-



From the President Obama Calls for “New Model” of Partnership with Africa

President Obama called for a “new model” of partnership with Africa during his March 28 meeting with four African leaders at the White House.

Shown here at the White House are, from left, Senegal's President Macky Sall, Malawi's President Joyce Banda, President Obama, Sierra Leone's President Ernest Bai Koroma and Cape Verde's Prime Minister José Maria Pereira Neves.

“My main message to each of these leaders,” Obama said, “is that the United

States is going to be a strong partner, not based on the old model in which we are a donor and they are simply a recipient, but a new model that's based on partnership and recognizing that no continent has greater potential or greater upside than the continent of Africa if they, in fact, have the kind of strong leadership that these four individuals represent.”

Obama said they discussed how to continue to build strong democracies and transparency and accountability in government.

Among the Obama administration officials at the White House meeting

were Vice President Biden and Secretary of State John Kerry.

Earlier in the day, the African leaders (Senegal being represented by Ambassador Cheikh Niang) met at the Pentagon with U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel. Among the topics they discussed there were extremist networks, illicit trafficking and maritime security. Hagel emphasized the U.S. desire to support African-led security solutions and praised these four countries for their contributions to peacekeeping operations around Africa.

[More](#)

E-Publication: The Real Ambassadors—America Exports Jazz

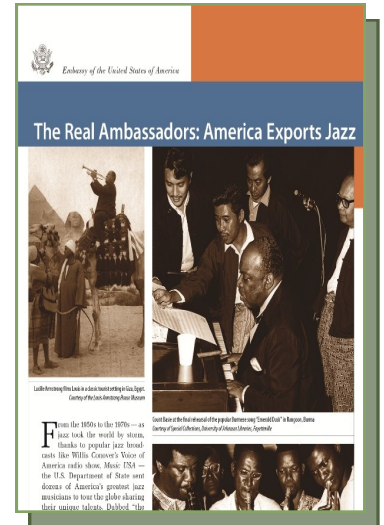
From the 1950s to the 1970s — as jazz took the world by storm, thanks to popular jazz broadcasts like Willis Conover's Voice of America radio show, Music USA — the U.S. Department of State sent dozens of America's greatest jazz musicians to tour the globe sharing their unique talents. Dubbed "the Jazz Am-

bassadors," these American jazz greats were embraced by enthusiastic audiences from Africa to the Middle East, Europe, Asia and Latin America.

America's jazz ambassadors were thrilled by the opportunity to "play for the people." They were so committed to reaching out to foreign audi-

ences that several artists refused to play concerts until eager fans unable to afford tickets were admitted for free. Many of the musicians were equally eager to learn about the music and culture of their international hosts and held impromptu jam sessions with local musicians.

[Download pamphlet](#)



In Brief

Musical Instrument "Passport" Will Speed Travel, Protect Wildlife

Musicians who use instruments that legally contain endangered wildlife products such as Brazilian rosewood or elephant ivory will now have an easier time crossing international borders with a "passport" for their in-

struments.



A U.S. proposal to streamline international customs checks for travelers with such musical instruments was ap-

proved in Bangkok March 14. The musical instrument passport program was adopted at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The resolution for the program was agreed to

by consensus of the CITES parties. It will allow for frequent travel across international borders with the issuance of just one document, making it easier for musicians to travel internationally with instruments that may contain parts or products from CITES-listed animal and plant species.

Special Article

U.S. Welcomes U.N. Conclusions on Status of Women

Washington — Following a major international women's conference, members of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women agreed that all nations have an unqualified responsibility to protect women and girls from violence and discrimination in the world today.

Ambassador Susan Rice, the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, said that the "Agreed Conclusions [by the commission members] represent vital international recognition that women and girls everywhere have a right to live free from violence, exploitation, and abuse."

The 45 member states met for the 57th session at U.N. headquarters in New York March 4–15. U.N. experts estimate that up to six out of every 10 women in the world experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.

"International and regional legal instruments have clarified obligations of States to prevent, eradicate and punish violence against women and girls," states the U.N. Women website. "The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) requires that countries party to the Convention take all appropriate steps to end violence.

"However, the continued prevalence of violence against women and girls demonstrates that this global pandemic of

alarming proportions is yet to be tackled with all the necessary political commitment and resources," the U.N. Women website said.

The U.S. delegation to the commission's 57th session, which was headed by Rice, worked with fellow member states to shape a strong consensus document that could support and galvanize worldwide efforts to eliminate gender-based violence.

Among the 34 items in the Agreed Conclusions were a number of groundbreaking statements, including these:

- An explicit acknowledgement of the importance of respecting and protecting sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.
- Recognition of the fact that domestic violence is the most prevalent form of violence against women and girls, and that men and boys are crucial to preventing such violence.
- Recognition that prevention and response efforts must also address trafficking in persons.
- Calls for a multisector response and an end to impunity.

At a recently concluded session of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, 45 member states broke ground by agreeing that all states have the unqualified responsibility to protect women and girls from

violence and discrimination.

- Calls for the advancement of women's full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land.
- Reference to harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage, and clear language asserting that custom, tradition or religious considerations should not serve as a basis to condone violence against women and girls.
- Calls for greater protection for specific populations that face heightened risk of violence, such as disabled women and girls, those living with HIV and indigenous women.

Although Rice hailed the Agreed Conclusions as "a milestone in our fight for the safety and dignity of women and girls everywhere," she said: "The United States remains disappointed that the Conclusions did not explicitly recognize that women and girls should not suffer violence or discrimination based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Basic rights must apply to everyone, and the United States will continue to fight relentlessly to ensure equality for all people regardless of who they are or whom they love."

In a memorandum issued January 30, 2013, to the heads of U.S. executive departments and

agencies, President Obama called for better U.S. coordination of policies and programs to promote gender equality and to empower women and girls globally. "During my Administration, the United States has made promoting gender equality and advancing the status of women and girls a central element of our foreign policy, including by leading through example at home," the president said.

"Promoting gender equality and advancing the status of all women and girls around the world remains one of the greatest unmet challenges of our time," Obama said, "and one that is vital to achieving our overall foreign policy objectives.

"Ensuring that women and girls, including those most marginalized, are able to participate fully in public life, are free from violence, and have equal access to education, economic opportunity, and health care increases broader economic prosperity, as well as political stability and security," Obama said.

According to Rice, the Agreed Conclusions "mark a milestone in our fight for the safety and dignity of women and girls everywhere."

"The United States," Rice said, "celebrates this progress as we pledge to redouble our efforts to protect and support the fundamental rights of all women and girls, both at home and around the world."

E-DOCS ALERT

Joseph Stromberg. CLIMATE CHANGE IS REDUCING OUR ABILITY TO GET WORK DONE (Smithsonian.com, February 25, 2013)

The author contends that "climate change is projected to increase the average humidity of Earth as well as its temperature, and you could have a recipe for a rather unexpected consequence of greenhouse gas emissions: a reduced overall ability to get work done."

See: <http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/science/2013/02/climate-change-is-reducing-our-ability-to-get-work-done/>

The Hidden Global Trade in Water. YaleGlobal. Jenny Kehl. February 13, 2013.

Water seems plentiful, but less than 3 percent of the Earth's supply is fresh water, much of it polar ice. Agriculture represents about 70 percent of the globe's annual water use. Exporting water-intensive crops like cotton produced in arid nations is essentially trading an essential resource away, resulting in net losses for water-scarce nations. Subsidies for water and agriculture, cross-border trade, short-term profits and a lack of economic planning contribute to a lack of awareness about the massive, invisible trade in water. "This trade could be reorganized for water-scarce regions to become virtual water importers, a reversal of their current net water loss, and water-rich regions to become virtual water exporters," explains Jenny Kehl. "The reality is that it takes more water overall to produce water-intensive crops in water-scarce regions." Transparency, calculation of water uses, could improve national policies on trade and agriculture, promoting sustainability and food security. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/hidden-global-trade-water> [HTML format, various paging].

Geoengineering: Governance and Technology Policy. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Kelsi Bracmort and Richard K. Lattanzio. January 2, 2013.

Climate change policies at both the national and international levels have traditionally focused on measures to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to adapt to the actual or anticipated impacts of changes in the climate. As a participant in several international agreements on climate change, the U.S. has joined with other nations to express concern about climate change. However, in the absence of a national climate change policy, some recent technological advances and hypotheses, generally referred to as "geoengineering" technologies, have created alternatives to these traditional approaches. If deployed, these new technologies could modify the Earth's climate on a large scale. Moreover, these new technologies may become available to foreign governments and entities in the private sector to use unilaterally--without authorization from the U.S. government or an international treaty--as was done in the summer of 2012 when an American citizen conducted an ocean fertilization experiment off the coast of Canada.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41371.pdf> [PDF format, 43 pages, 542.99 KB].

Getting Better Value for Money in Malaria Control. Center for Global Development. Paul Wilson and Amanda Glassman. July 11, 2012.

Malaria kills hundreds of thousands of people every year and is among the leading causes of death for children under five. While funding for malaria control increased dramatically in recent years, gains are fragile and budgets are now stagnating. In that fiscal reality, getting better value for money is more important than ever. The brief presents a framework for increasing the efficiency of malaria-control initiatives that addresses where to intervene, what interventions are best, and how to deliver them most effectively. Much of what is spent on malaria control is already spent well, but health policymakers and practitioners could get better value and save more lives. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1426332_file_Wilson_Glassman_malaria_FINAL.pdf [PDF format, 4 pages, 119 KB].

Library Services in the Digital Age. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Kathryn Zickuhr et al, January 22, 2013.

The internet has already had a major impact on how people find and access information, and now the rising popularity of e-books is helping transform Americans' reading habits. In this changing landscape, public libraries are trying to adjust their services to these new realities while still serving the needs of patrons who rely on more traditional resources. In a new survey of Americans' attitudes and expectations for public libraries, the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project finds that many library patrons are eager to see libraries' digital services expand, yet also feel that print books remain important in the digital age. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://libraries.pewinternet.org/files/legacy-pdf/PIP_Library%20services_Report_012213.pdf [PDF format, 80 pages, 1.56 MB].

E-book Reading Jumps; Print Book Reading Declines. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Lee Rainie and Maeve Duggan. December 27, 2012.

The population of e-book readers is growing. In the past year, the number of those who read e-books increased from 16% of all Americans ages 16 and older to 23%. At the same time, the number of those who read printed books in the previous 12 months fell from 72% of the population ages 16 and older to 67%. Overall, the number of book readers in late 2012 was 75% of the population ages 16 and older, a small and statistically insignificant decline from 78% in late 2011. The move toward e-book reading coincides with an increase in ownership of electronic book reading devices. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://libraries.pewinternet.org/files/legacy-pdf/PIP_Reading%20and%20ebooks_12.27.pdf [PDF format, 15 pages, 1,001.95 KB].

Events for the Month

World Health Day—April 7

World Health Day marks the founding of the World Health Organization and is an opportunity to draw worldwide attention to a subject of major importance to global health each year.

[External Site: World Health Organization](#)

[External Site: UN World Health Day Resources](#)

[State: Office of International Health & Biodefense](#)

Pan American Day - April 14

Pan American Day is celebrated annually as a "commemorative symbol of the American nations and the voluntary union of all in one continental community" marking the anniversary of the day in 1890 when this union was

established.

[External Site: Organization of American States - Pan American Day](#)

Earth Day—April 22

Earth Day is the annual celebration of the environment and a time to assess the work needed to protect the natural gifts of our planet.

[External Site: Earth Day Network](#)

World Book and Copyright Day April 23

UNESCO's General Conference pays a world-wide tribute to books and authors on this date, encouraging everyone, and in particular young people, to discover the pleasure of reading and gain a renewed respect for the irreplaceable contributions of those who have furthered the social and

cultural progress of humanity.

World Malaria Day—April 25

World Malaria Day - which was instituted by the World Health Assembly at its 60th session in May 2007 - is a day for recognizing the global effort to provide effective control of malaria.

[External Site: World Health Organization - World Malaria Day](#)

International Jazz Day—April 30

In November 2011, UNESCO officially designated April 30 as International Jazz Day in order to highlight jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe.

[External Site: International Jazz Day](#)

Harper Lee Center Monthly Movie

American Corner Event

In celebration of Earth Day, the Harper Lee Center is pleased to present

Living Edens: Big Sur, California's Wild Coast

Tuesday April 16 and Thursday April 18 at 15:00 hrs

Living Edens: Big Sur is a documentary about California's wild coastline region. Narrated by Sally Kellerman and photographed by Bruce Reitherman, this program features the wild animals and plant life that lives in Big Sur, constituting the 100 miles of coastland beneath the Monterey Peninsula. On-location footage explores the mating and feeding habits of endangered birds, ocean mammals, and inland forest creatures. Big Sur is home to rare species of animals, like the California condor, the elephant seal, and the

acorn woodpecker. **Seats are limited! Please sign up for one of the sessions at**

harperleecenter@gmail.com or

670 6733/670 4897.

Harper Lee Center

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